

# TwinRivers

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*Our Mission:  
To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day.*

To: The Federal Communications Commission  
From: Frank S. Porter, Superintendent, Twin Rivers Unified School District  
Re: CC Docket No. 02-06  
Date: September 8, 2008

On behalf of the Twin Rivers Unified School District, I'm writing in strong support of the proposed addition of "telephone broadcast messaging" to the list of services eligible for support under the schools and libraries ("E-rate") program.

Telephone broadcast messaging is clearly one of the most effective and cost efficient methods of leveraging network and telephone assets to improve communications between and among educators, students, and parents. My own experience and the experience of the administrative staff in our 54 school sites has consistently proven that telephone broadcast messaging offers significant advantages and benefits over the less efficient means which schools traditionally used to reach out to students and parents, such as hand-delivered written notices and phone tree messages.

For example, telephone broadcast messaging is typically used as a means of contacting parents regarding absent or truant students, thereby facilitating increased classroom attendance. Telephone broadcast messaging can also be used to notify and inform parents of testing schedules, parent/teacher conferences, and to otherwise increase participation by parents in their children's education.

A further and very significant benefit of telephone broadcast messaging is that it provides an important emergency response resource in the event of weather-related events, health or other civil emergencies, or other incidents that require schools to lock down or transfer students to safe locations. My staff and I can provide numerous examples demonstrating conclusively that telephone broadcast messaging has been a critical resource in quickly, accurately, and effectively communicating vital emergency information.

In enacting the E-rate program in 1996, Congress recognized that many schools and libraries have limited resources that constrain their access to emerging technologies that can enhance and support their educational mission. Telephone broadcast messaging, which allows schools to more efficiently and effectively communicate with students and parents, is a prime example of such an emerging technology and should be included within the E-rate program's list of eligible services.

Sincerely,



Frank S. Porter  
Superintendent